

Make it your Mission to Heal and Care for Veterans

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration

ERIE VA MEDICAL CENTER

CAREERS IN NURSING



VA



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Veterans Health Administration
Erie VA Medical Center

Choose 

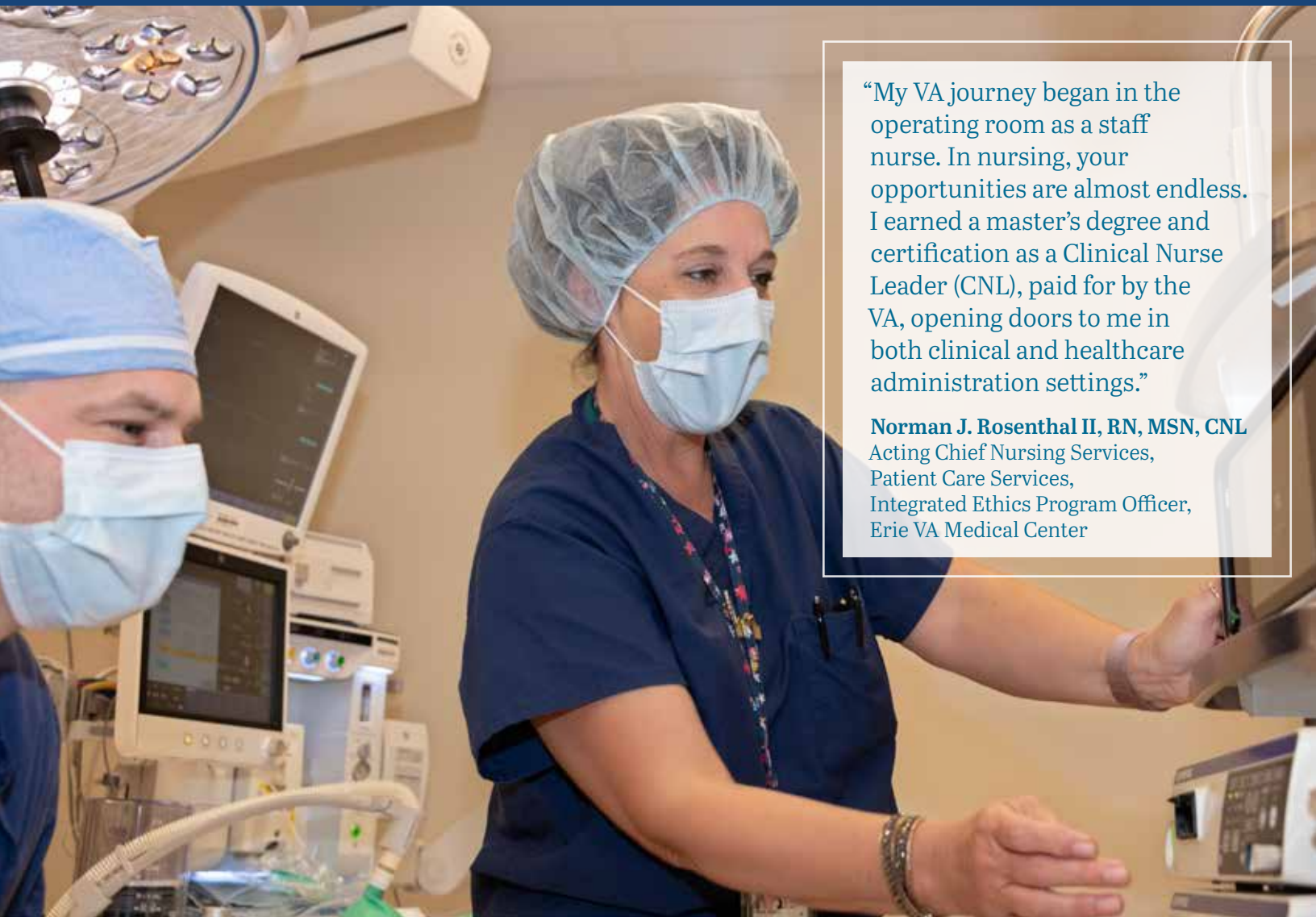
Caring for our Nation's Heroes

Nurses are at the center of VA care at the Erie VA Medical Center. Every day, they make a profound impact on the lives of Veterans in our region by providing patient-centered, high-quality health care.

A nursing career at VA is fulfilling in ways that few professions can offer. Our mission to serve and care for Veterans is at the heart of everything we do.

Erie VA Medical Center is actively filling critical nursing positions that help Veterans get better, faster. Our nurses work across disciplines and in all treatment settings, helping coordinate the full spectrum of patient care.

Erie VA nurses work across a continuum of services for acute and chronic conditions in hospital, ambulatory and skilled nursing services. Services include ambulatory surgery, urgent care, long-term care, connected care, home based primary care, specialty and primary care clinics including the Community Based Outpatient Clinics located in Ashtabula, Meadville, Venango, and Warren. We also offer positions in clinical support settings and management.



“My VA journey began in the operating room as a staff nurse. In nursing, your opportunities are almost endless. I earned a master’s degree and certification as a Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL), paid for by the VA, opening doors to me in both clinical and healthcare administration settings.”

Norman J. Rosenthal II, RN, MSN, CNL
Acting Chief Nursing Services,
Patient Care Services,
Integrated Ethics Program Officer,
Erie VA Medical Center

As a nurse at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), you have more than a job — **you have a mission to serve Veterans who've borne the battle with honor.** In carrying out this mission, you'll discover a career with competitive pay, opportunities for growth and mobility, a wealth of benefits and rich rewards.

Erie VA is hiring for All Nursing Positions

- Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (CRNP)
- Registered Nurse (RN)
- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)
- Nursing Assistant (NA)

Benefits of VA Nursing Careers

- **Unrestricted licensing and relocation.** With an active U.S. nursing license, a move to Erie VA Medical Center is easy. You can also transfer to any of VA's 1,255 facilities across the nation and in some U.S. territories without losing any benefits, accumulated paid leave, or pay. In addition, if you're hired for a specific, difficult-to-recruit direct patient care position, you may be eligible for VA's Education Debt Reduction Program.
- **Education and development.** Advance in your career with education support programs and ongoing leadership training through every level of employment.
- **Competitive salaries.** We offer strong starting salaries based on education, training, and experience. We also offer steady growth, with periodic pay raises that address inflation and local market changes.
- **Flexible schedules.** Our employees receive 13 to 26 paid vacation/personal days, 13 sick days annually with no limit on accumulation, and VA observes 11 paid federal holidays each year.
- **Robust insurance options.** Choose from a variety of health maintenance organizations or fee-for-service health plans, and all cover preexisting conditions. Additionally, VA pays up to 75% of health premiums, a benefit that can continue into retirement.
- **Retirement Benefits.** Prepare for life after VA service with Social Security, a pension, and a Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) (401(k)). Get credit for military service.



Choose **VA**

Search and Apply 
Conveniently Online

Job Search: www.vacareers.va.gov

Apply: www.usajobs.gov

Upper Left (l to r)

Ed Jackowski, U.S. Air Force Veteran

Executive Assistant to the Associate Director,
12 years with EVAMC, 24 years Federal Service

Tonja Ebony Page, LPN

V-Consult Neurology, Western Market, Medial Specialty,
5 years with EVAMC

Lower Left (l to r)

Brian McCullough, RN

Ambulatory Surgery, 6 years with EVAMC

Heidi L. Craig, RN

Ambulatory Surgery, 2 years with EVAMC

Front Cover (l to r)

John L. Spacht, RN, RSN

Surgical Specialty Clinic, 6 years with EVAMC

Kimberly M. Barnes, MSN, RN, Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL)

Assistant Manager, Primary Care, 13 years with EVAMC

Kamala V. Pillay-lander, RN, BSN, Wound Care Certified (WCC)

Community Living Center Alpha, Wound Nurse, 4 years with EVAMC

Benefits for All Nursing Positions



- Career development program
- Continuing education (CEUs)
- Leadership development opportunities
- Annual employee development funding (EDF)
- Nationwide transfer opportunities
- Tuition assistance available
- Scholarship opportunities



- Medical Library
- Clinical Simulation Lab

Benefits for Registered Nurses (RN)



- 26 vacation days/year cumulative
- 13 sick days/year cumulative
- 11 paid holidays
- 12 weeks paid parental leave (after one year of service)
- 15 military leave days per year



- Shift differential 12%
- Weekend premium pay 12%
- Double time for holidays worked
- Education Debt Reduction (select positions)
- Uniform allowance (select areas)

Benefits for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) and Nursing Assistants (NA)



- 13 vacation days/year cumulative
- 13 sick days/year cumulative
- 11 paid holidays
- 12 weeks paid parental leave (after one year of service)
- 15 military leave days per year



- Shift differential 10%
- Weekend premium pay 10%
- Double time for holidays worked
- Education Debt Reduction (select positions)
- Uniform allowance (select areas)

Nursing Assistants (NA): shifts vary depending on unit assignment and clinical rotations.

Integrity

Act with high moral principle. Adhere to the highest professional standards. Maintain the trust and confidence of all with whom I engage.

Commitment

Work diligently to serve Veterans and other beneficiaries. Be driven by an earnest belief in VA's mission. Fulfill my individual responsibilities and organizational responsibilities.

Advocacy

Be truly Veteran-centric by identifying, fully considering, and appropriately advancing the interests of Veterans and other beneficiaries.

Respect

Treat all those I serve and with whom I work with dignity and respect. Show respect to earn it.

Excellence

Strive for the highest quality and continuous improvement. Be thoughtful and decisive in leadership, accountable for my actions, willing to admit mistakes, and rigorous in correcting them.

**Traci Shade, MSN, RN**

Nurse Education Specialist/Designated
Education Office (DEO)/Scholarship Coordinator,
Education & Informatics, 7 years with EVAMC





Registered Nurse Transition-to-Practice Residency Program

Be a part of a dynamic inter-disciplinary team. Enhance your knowledge by working alongside physicians, expert registered nurses, respiratory therapists, physical and occupational therapists, social workers, behavioral health providers, and pharmacists.

Education: Tuition Reimbursement to advance education for qualified staff may be available after one year of employment.

Opportunities: The VA offers RNs the ability to explore many different areas of nursing not normally available through traditional medical center environments. This 12-month residency curriculum is aligned with the VA Office of Nursing Services RN Transition-to-Practice Program Core curriculum and CCNE 2020 standards for Entry-to-Practice.

This program will provide a supportive network of senior nurses, and preceptors to help augment your academic education with professional clinical experience. The Erie VAMC has a simulation lab that affords all staff a multitude of clinical simulation opportunities, including mock code, annual skills and our operating room airway training.

Additional educational opportunities for all residents include ACLS, Telemetry training, Clinic Skills (Elsevier), ClinicalKey™ (Elsevier). The Transition-to-Practice program includes shadowing several administrative nurses, providing a global perspective of Veteran care, and meaning behind metrics and measurements.

Requirements:

- Must be a U.S. citizen
- Graduate of a NLN or CCNE accredited program
- Successfully passed NCLEX
- Less than 1 year as an RN

For Specific Program Questions Contact:

Ellen Danowski, DNP, MSN, RN
Transition-to-Practice Coordinator, Erie VAMC | 814-860-2968



Erie VA Medical Center Nurse Recruiter

For more information, please contact our Nurse Recruiter:

Mary (Mari) Johnson, RN, MSN

Office Phone: 814-860-2473 | Mobile Phone: 814-844-7194

Email: Maryjohnson2@va.gov | External email: vhaerinurserecruiter@va.gov

VHA Travel Nurse Corps Program (TNC)

The VA Travel Nurse Corps Program (TNC) is a VA operated internal pool of Registered Nurses available for temporary assignments throughout the Veterans Health Administration. The goals of the program are to maintain high standards of patient care quality and safety; reduce the use of outside supplemental staffing; improve recruitment of new nurses into the VA system; improve retention by decreasing turnover of newly recruited nurses; support the delivery of VA health care in rural or underserved areas; provide alternatives for experienced nurses considering leaving the VA system; and to establish a potential pool of Registered Nurses for national emergency preparedness efforts.

About VHA Travel Nurse Corps Program

- The program recruits Registered Nurses, who are flexible and mobile to take an assignment at any of our VA medical centers in the U.S. as well as Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.
- These positions are temporary, intermittent, and the minimum assignment is generally 13 weeks. You are required to accept at least 3 assignments each year.
- Intermittent employees are not to exceed 1,872 hours worked per year (approximately 10 months).
- Employees of TNC are Federal employees and are not considered contractors.

For more detailed information visit:

VHA Office of Nursing Services, Travel Nurse Corps Program at www.va.gov/nursing/workforce/tnc.asp

or call TNC Office: **602-626-5611 | 866-664-1030**

Email: travelnurse@va.gov



VHA Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System (DEMPS)

The Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System (DEMPS) Program is the Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) main program for deployment of clinical and non-clinical staff to an emergency or disaster.

DEMPS may be used for internal VHA missions, as well as supporting external missions identified under the VA's 4th Mission and in direct support of the National Response Framework Emergency Support Function #6 (Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services) and/or #8 (Public Health and Medical Services).

VHA headquarters and Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) Directors use the DEMPS database as a personnel resource listing to match personnel qualifications to emergency response requirements and needs. Volunteers include physicians, nurses, pharmacists, respiratory therapists, mental health counselors, engineers, contract specialists, maintenance workers, emergency management officials and others.

As DEMPS volunteers, Erie VA nurses deploy to other VA facilities during times of disaster such as hurricanes, floods, and pandemics. DEMPS missions have taken Erie VA nurses to New York City, Louisiana, Puerto Rico, and as far as Hawaii.

"My first (DEMPS) experience was serving as a member of the senior management team that opened a federal medical station in a gymnasium at Louisiana Tech University following Hurricane Gustav. This medical shelter housed and cared for more than 120 residents who were displaced by this devastating storm. The experience left me amazed, inspired, and motivated."

Dorene M. Sommers, RN, BSN, MBA, FACHE
Associate Director, Patient Care Services
VA Erie Medical Center

Erie VA Medical Center

135 East 38th Street | Erie, PA 16504

